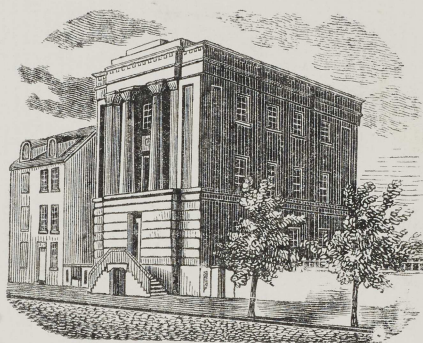


AN ESSAY ON

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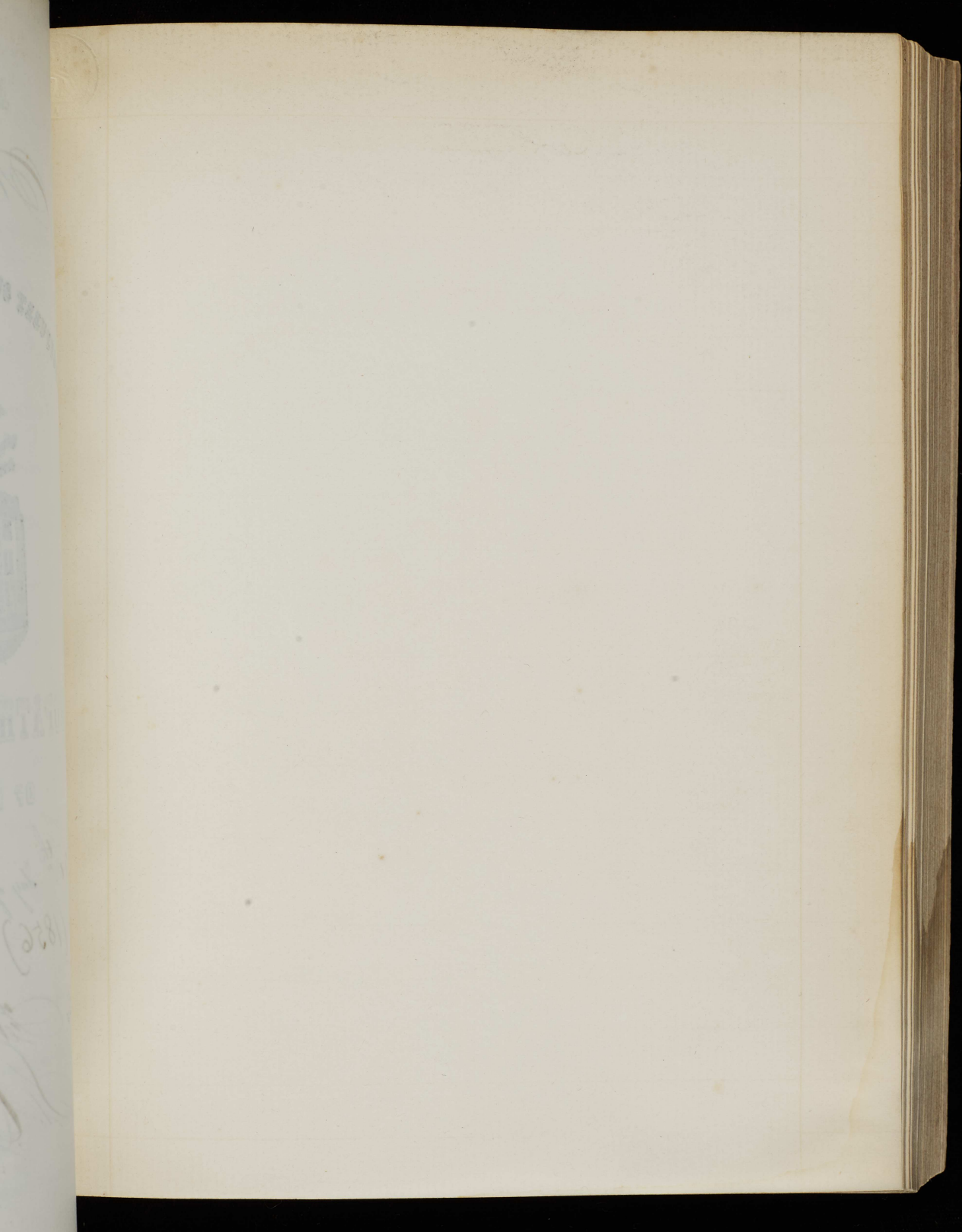
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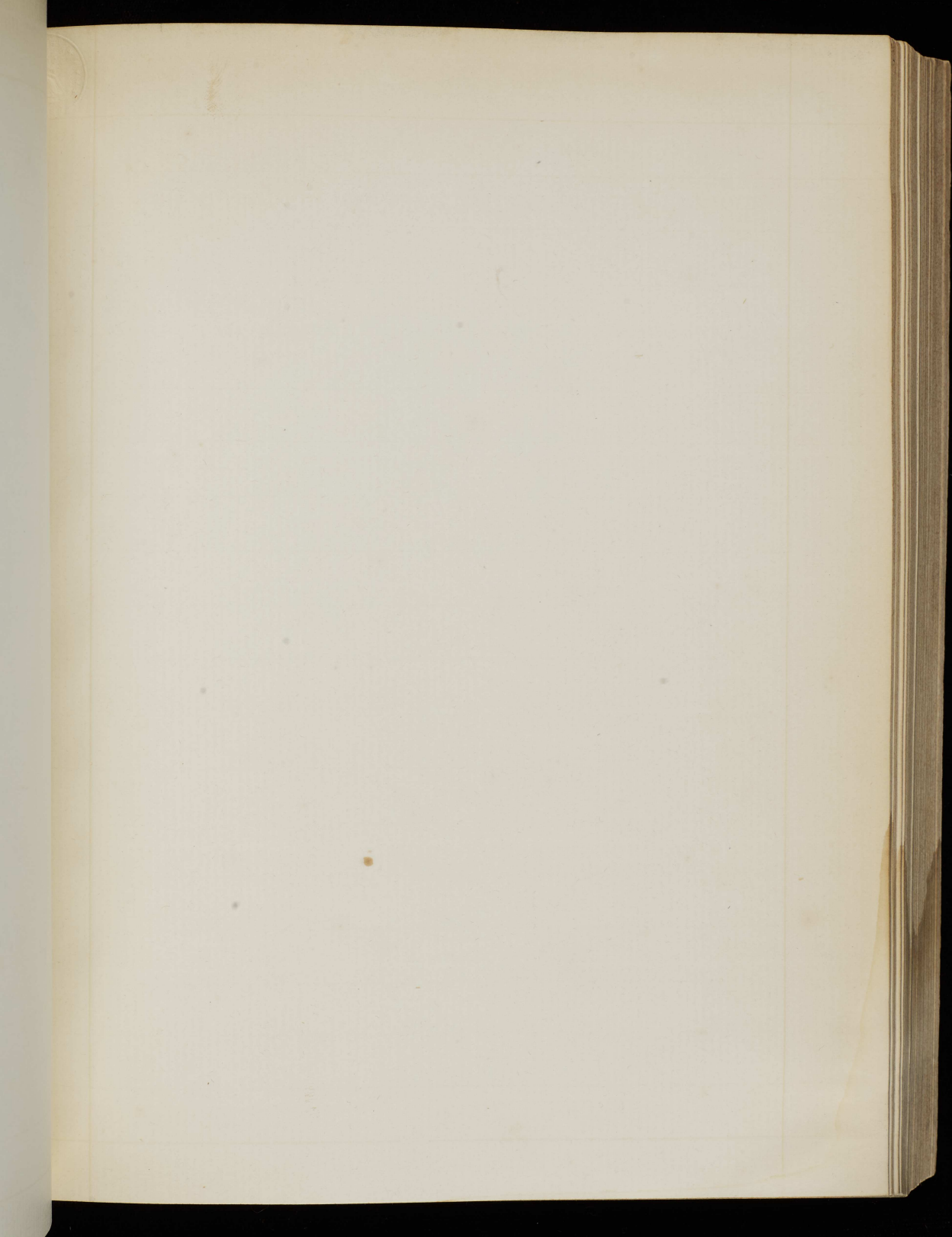


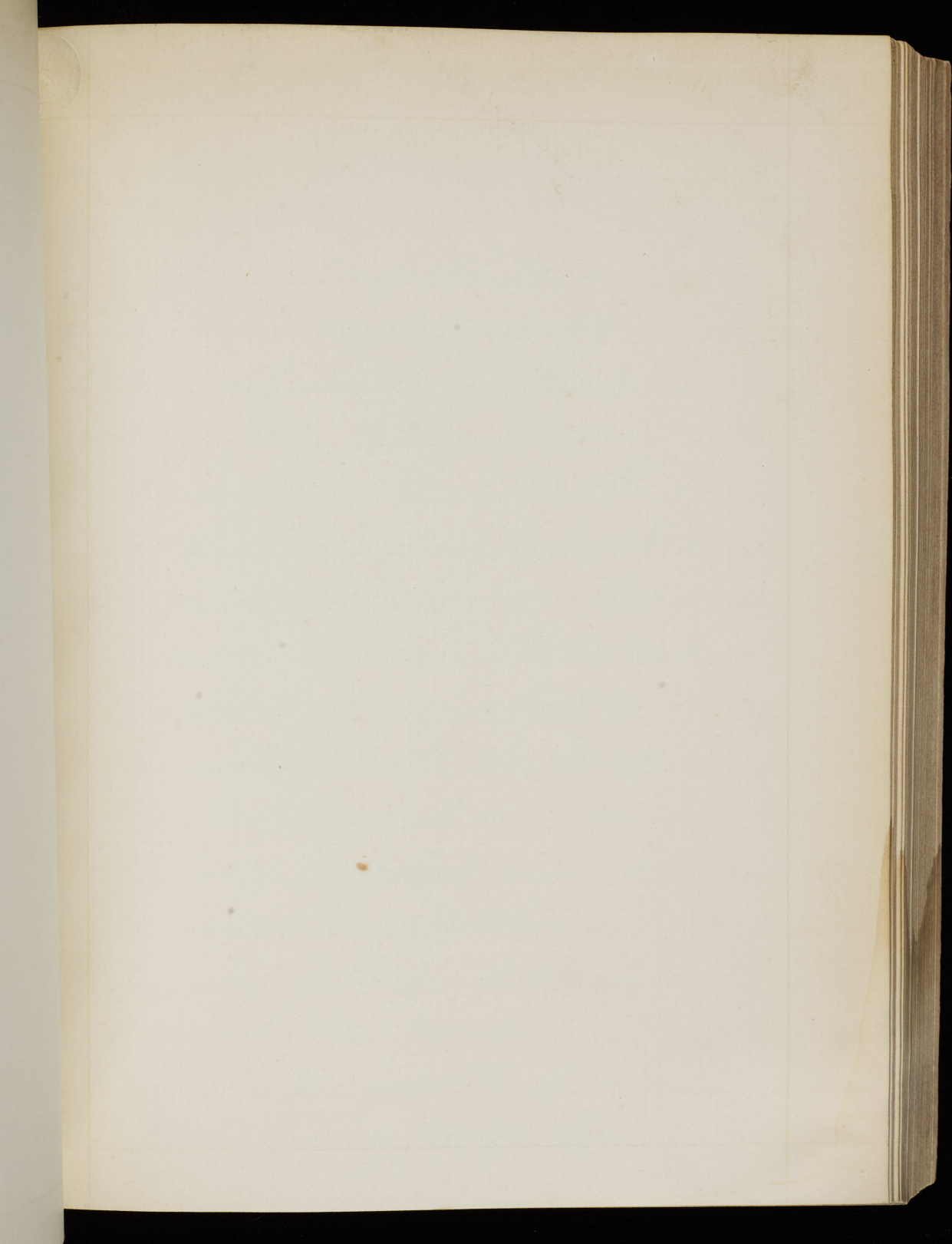
HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

On the 30th day of January, Eighteen Hundred and
Fifty-six. (1856)

By *Wm. Malcolm Havens*
of *S. Catharines*
Canada West







Introduction

Arranged in the second
I think the human family are
liable, in fact there is not
a single organ in the whole
human economy that is not
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from the mildest to the most
fierce maladies, but above all,
those that follow on that mis-
fortune of man, the mind,
producing the greatest distress
against which the resources of
the human body are brought
to bear, and which from amongst
the appalling catalogue of these
disorders of this description
I select one which is the re-
sult of that
degenerating and degenerating

Introduction

Numerous are the diseases to which the human family are liable, In fact there is not a single organ, in the whole Animal economy, that is not obnoxious to its power. —

From the mildest, to the most fearful maladies, but above all, those that fasten on that noble faculty of man, the mind, present the greatest obstacles, Against which, the weapons of the healing art, are brought to bear. — And from amongst the Appalling Catalogue of ~~this~~ diseases of this description I select one, which is the legitimate result of that demoralizing and degrading

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habit, that of drinking alcoholic
beverages. A practice, against
which, the combined powers of
Moral suasion, and the enact-
ment of stringent laws, have
had but little effect, although
Statistics show us, that this
disease is much less frequent
now than formerly. And every
lover of reform and humanity
should bid "God speed" the
measure that has for its object
to raise fallen man from the
degraded condition, into which
this vice has plunged him,
and placing him again in the
scale of Creation, in which this
Creator designed he should move,
Even should the victim escape

over

every one of the diseases contained
in the frightful Catalogue, as the
result of intemperance such
as. Inflammation of the brain, and
its membranes, the Pleura, the
stomach, and the liver, Jaundice,
Dropsy, Mania, Diabetes, Gout,
and Dyspepsia, with all its
attendant miseries: Yet he is —
obnoxious to one not less formidable,
which sometimes manifests itself
rather suddenly, and speedily
destroys the Patient, sometimes
creeping on by slow, and almost
imperceptible degrees, though it
may not prove immediately fatal,
May leave him in a lamentable
state of debility both of body and
mind, and materially shorten the term

of his existence,

This disease has been divided into three stages. I propose giving the symptoms of each one, and the remedies to be employed, together with their indications.

This disease is not caused by the immediate action of Alcohol but is developed after the patient has been indulging freely for some time, and then the stimulant suddenly withdrawn.

And the first effects, from the suspension of the stimulating ~~are~~ feelings of great weakness, a sinking of the whole system with an indescribable anxiety and agitation, which is generally

repressed in the patient's countenance
 His imagination breaks away from
 the control of reason, and he is tor-
 mented by vague alarms, fear of imp-
 ending danger, *Phantasies* &c
 his hands tremble, his mind is
 weak, he has confusion of ideas,
 &c though without positive delirium
 The pulse is soft and feeble, but
 frequent. the extremities are moist
 and cool, there is loss of appetite
 sometimes nausea and vomiting,
 tongue furred, and tendency to
 constipation. — This is the
 first stage of the disease, and may
 be called simple *delirium tremens*
 If taken at this period, the
 disease is readily controlled by
 proper remedies, or, it will

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disappear for the time, by allowing
the patient some of his old stimulus.
But this is only adding fuel to
the flame. And should never, under
any circumstances be resorted to,

Although, the withholding the stim-
ulus aggravates the previous symptoms
and the disease becomes thoroughly
established, The phenomena that
next present themselves are,
Hallucinations, consequent upon the disorder
of the perception faculties, false
impressions are received through his
senses, but he will believe them
to be mere phantasies, having no real
existence for a time, but soon
they assume tangible forms, and
he believes them real. — In general
these Hallucinations only occur

at night, and when daylight appears they vanish— however as the disease progresses, these illusions become constant, and the patient is surrounded by the most horrible and disgusting objects, devils and hobgoblins, surround him on all sides, hissing and leering and threatening, the apartment is filled with toads, serpents, and rats, they creep into his bed, get into his clothes, wind round his neck, and he making desperate attempts to free himself from them, or imploring his attendants to remove them.—

The intensity of the delirium, and the more complete the hallucinations, depends entirely upon the temperament of the

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patients, those of the purely nervous temperament, of course suffer the most, while in those of the leucophlegmatic temperament it is quite mild, —————

Setting aside the variety of delirium there is one feature of the disease that is constant. And that is fear of personal injury. the patient imagines that people are lurking around him conspiring to kill him, and will retreat his attendants to save him. he becomes furious and requires often to be restrained from leaving his bed and escaping. But he never shows a malicious disposition. in attempting to injure those around him. There is another symptom, that

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is always present from the commencement of the second stage till the termination of the disease, and that is constant wakefulness. In fact ~~as soon~~ as soon as the patient can be brought to sleep, you can entertain hopes of a speedy recovery. Muscular tremors are a common but by no means a characteristic symptom. for there has been fatal cases, where they have been absent from the first to the last. They are generally observed in the hands, tendons of the muscles of the forearm, and in the tongue. The patient has no appetite, the tongue generally moist, but covered with a brownish coating, stools dark coloured, but generally, there

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is Constipation. In some cases
the disease may take a favour-
able turn at this period, there
is gradual cessation of the violence
of his delirium, he sinks into a deep
sleep of from twelve, twenty four, and
sometimes thirty six hours duration
from which he wakes pale, exhausted,
and trembling, but with return of
his appetite, he gains gradually
from this off. his symptoms
entirely disappear, and he is
restored. Instead however of
terminating in this favourable
manner, Cases if left to themselves
or improperly treated, lapse into
the third stage. Constant delirium
incoherence violent restlessness sometimes
to such a degree, as to require powerful

prostrant, at times extreme prostration
 excessive trembling of the whole body,
 frequent but feeble pulse, perspiration
 over the whole body, the features are
 pale sunken, and have a pinched
 appearance, the pupils are generally
 dilated, muttering delirium, coma, —
convulsions and death supervent.

The disease runs a longer or shorter
 course according to the severity of the
 symptoms. It may terminate in
 three or four days, or it may last
 ten days or two weeks. In some
 cases the typhoid symptoms, of
 the last stage, set in almost
 at the beginning, and death
 soon closes the scene. —

But this is generally found
 in persons who have led a life

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of intemperance, and whose systems
have become debilitated, and speculially
predisposed to the disease,

Therapeutics

The principal remedies to be
used, in treating this disease,
Are, Nux. Vom., Opium, Acon., Bell., Sulph.
Carb. veg., Hyos. & Calc. carb. — When
taken in the first stage the disease
is almost always controlled by
Nux Vom., it should be administered
from 3 to 6 hours, according to
the severity of the symptoms. But
if the patient should be of
plethoric habit, and then should
be considerable cerebral excitement,
a dose of Acon followed by a few
doses of Bell will prove beneficial
but the cases in which these remedies

will be required, are not very common.
And it is seldom, if called
to the case in time, that you are
required to Administer more than
Nux. and Opium. Sulphur, is a
valuable remedy in very obstinate
Cases, And which do not Yield to
Nux or Opium. Carbo veg. Is useful
in the last stages where we
have great prostration, frequent
but feeble pulse, fetid breath
perspiration over the whole body,
with offensive smell, muttering
delirium &c. — Hyos. When
there is furious delirium, rage,
the patient is fearful, anxious
appearance of the face, subsultus
tendimus, Coma vigil & convulsions
Coffea, Cruca & Chamomilla may be

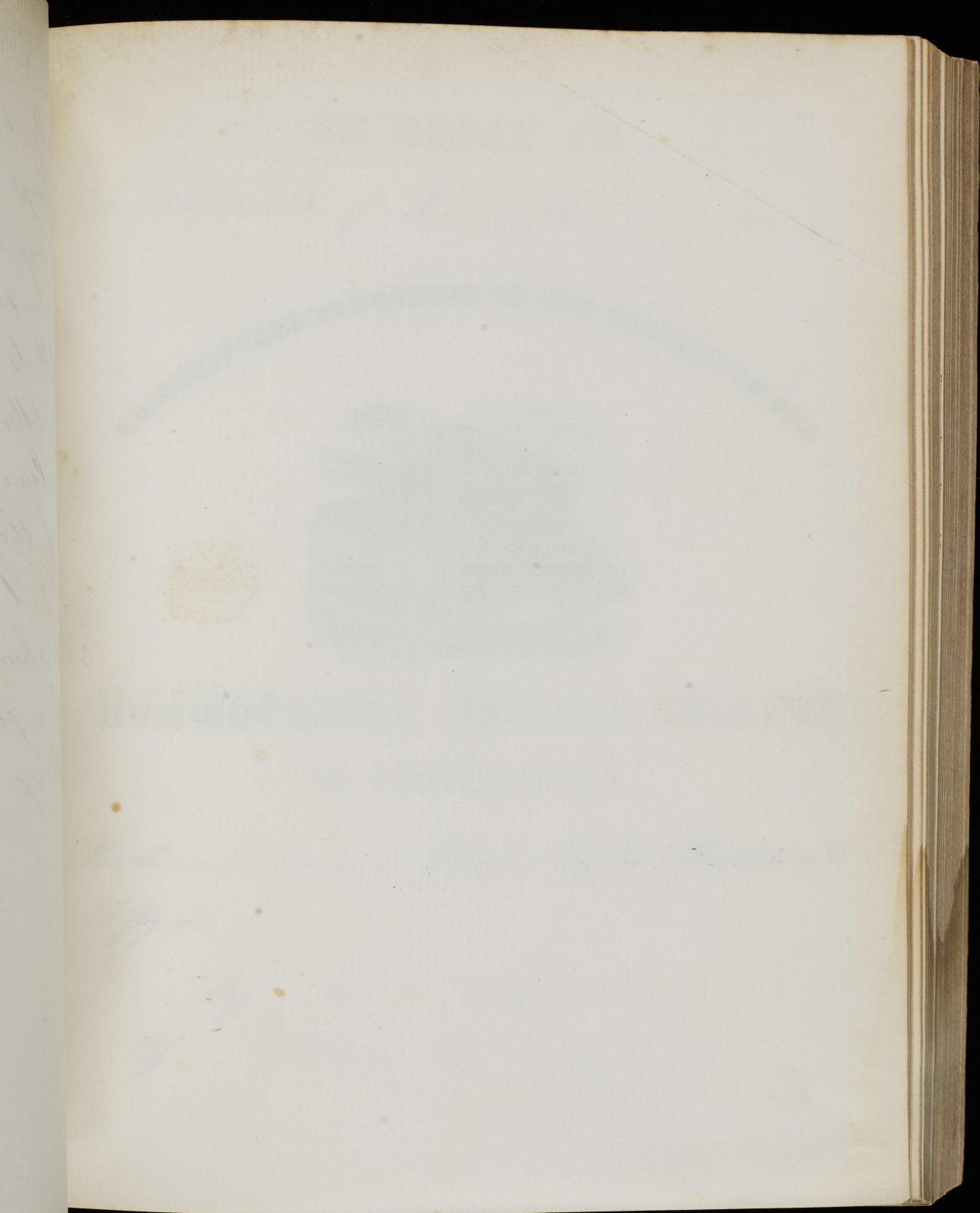
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used to allay the excessive irritability
and restlessness. Cale carb is a useful
remedy, particularly where the
disease occurs in lymphatic
subjects, and also to remove any
sequelae that may remain. But
in treating this disease I have
never had occasion to use more than
Bell. Nux. Opium & Hyos. And it
is seldom that you are required to
exhibit any other than these.
This disease proves much less
formidable in the hands of the
Homoeopath than in those of his
Allopathic brother. Too often does
it happen, that after the patient
has undergone a thorough course of
treatment, under the supervision of
one of the "Regulars" that instead

of his being restored to health. he is left in a deplorable state of debility, both of body and mind and from which he never recovers but finally slides out of this state of existence, before he has lived out half his days.

I will not say this is the legitimate result of their mode of treatment, but that it is the combined effects of the disease and the drugs.

Let me not be considered uncharitable here, for this is nothing more than the admission of some of the greatest men that the "old school" can boast of. And being as they are, truly ignorant of the only true method of cure, what can we expect. But we must deal



gently with them, touch their
failings lightly, and endeavour
by every means in our power to
rescue some of these mighty
intellects (whose efforts are worthy
of a better cause) from the worse
than Cimmerian darkness in
which they have been groping,
and lead them gently to that
light, whose beams are shedding
such a glorious power upon
suffering humanity